

# *Springs Valley Community Schools*

Office of the Superintendent  
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August 23, 2021

This evening, the Board of Trustees passed an update to our Return to In-Person Instruction plan. The update pertains to our close contact/quarantine protocols.

Effective immediately and until further notice, unvaccinated students who choose to wear a mask while at school and remain symptom-free will not be required to quarantine due to being in close contact with a person testing positive for COVID-19. Parents of students wearing masks will still be notified and will have the option of choosing quarantine for their child or not. If the student later develops symptoms or tests positive, they will be required to quarantine at that point. Staff will be required to wear a face covering when within six feet of a student. This updated policy is in effect from today forward, and does not pertain to students previously quarantined.

We are trying to strike a balance between COVID and the tremendous disruption it has had on education. Our second grade, first grade, and now kindergarten students have not experienced a school year without many lost days and loss of learning due to COVID interruptions. All other students have now had three school years in which academic growth was drastically affected. It will be very difficult to make up for the learning losses incurred, if at all. Many families cannot afford to miss work in order to stay home with their children. Many students depend on the daily meals they get at school. Therefore, we will try this alternative approach, and see if we can improve the educational process while maintaining student safety.

We will monitor both the severity of and the number of positive student cases. We may adjust our quarantine guidelines if circumstances dictate doing so. We will continue to follow other protocols, such as:

- Distancing measures
- Frequent handwashing
- Sanitizing surfaces
- Sanitizing buses

Although we are still allowing parent choice in the matter, we continue to strongly recommend mask usage. If mandated, we will implement a mask mandate in accordance with those requirements. Also, keep in mind that vaccinated students who remain symptom-free are exempt from quarantine. Finally, as always, if your child is displaying any combination of symptoms, please keep him or her home from school until symptoms improve.

Sincerely,

Trevor Apple  
Superintendent



